

21. ADDITIONS TO THE FLORA OF BENGAL

While making intensive plant exploration in northern parts of West Bengal viz. Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling Districts during March-April 1973 and October-November 1976 several interesting species were collected which on critical study proved not to have been reported earlier from West Bengal. Examination of the specimens deposited in Central National Herbarium (CAL) confirmed their earlier collections but these have not been reported so far. Hence the 5 taxa are now being reported as new records for West Bengal and additions to the Flora of Bengal. These are supplemented with relevant notes. The specimens are deposited in CAL & BSIS.

ASTERACEAE

Erigeron bonariensis Linn. Sp. Pl. 863. 1753;
Erigeron linifolius Willd. Sp. pl. 3. 1955,
1803; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 3: 254. 1882.

An erect hirsute herb. Stem branched. Leaves upper ones sessile, linear lower ones often stalked, broad & toothed. Heads small in corymbose panicle, white or pale purple.

Specimens examined: Rangpoo forest, Darjeeling, *B. Krishna* 404, (BSIS); Sevoke forest, Darjeeling, *D. Das* 43; 21st Mile road from Rajabhatkhawa, Jalpaiguri, *V. Narayanswami* 2315 (CAL).

GESNERIACEAE

Aeschynanthus grandiflora Spreng. Syst. 4. 238.
1827; Clarke in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 4:338.
1885.

An epiphytic herb. Stem terete, branched, rooting at nodes. Leaves coriaceous, alternate. Flowers with red tube and orange lobes suffused with black purple dots.

Specimens examined: Chapramari forest, Jalpaiguri, *B. Krishna* 268 (BSIS).

ORCHIDACEAE

Dendrobium crepidatum Lindl. Paxt. Fl. Gard.
1: 63. t. 45. 1850-51 et nov. ed. 1:53. t. 40.
1852; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 5: 740. 1890;
Prain, Bengal Plants 2: 758. 1963 (repr.).

Epiphyte. Stem terete greenish-yellow narrow at base, thickening upwards. Leaves membranous, sheathing, oblong-lanceolate. Flowers in pairs from the nodes, white tipped with pink, lip light yellow.

Specimens examined: Kundong block, Kalijhora, Darjeeling, *B. Krishna* 380 (BSIS).

Prain (1903) recorded it from Chotanagpur in Bihar.

Phalaenopsis manni Reichb. f. Gard. Chron.
902. 1871; 503. 1876; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind.
6: 30. 1890.

Epiphyte. Pseudobulb O. Leaves oblong-lanceolate, coriaceous. Scape equalling leaves, many flowered. Flowers yellowish-brown, lip yellow with pink blotches.

Specimens examined: Kalijhora, Darjeeling, *B. Krishna* 351 (BSIS).

LILIACEAE

Smilax lanceaefolia Roxb. Fl. Ind. 3. 792.
1832; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 308. 1892.

Prickly climber, branches subterete, slender. Leaves membranous, ovate-lanceolate, opposite. Male and female flowers in umbels. Fruit a berry, tip pink.

Specimens examined: Andherijhora, Darjeeling, *B. Krishna* 325 (BSIS); Buxa-Santrawari road, Jalpaiguri, *V. Narayanswami* 2857 (CAL).

Cowan & Cowan (1929) stated in a foot note

that the species was found at an altitude of 5-7,000 feet but no specimen could be located at CAL and BSIS except the above cited two specimens which were collected from places of much lower altitude.

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REFERENCE

COWAN, A. M. & COWAN, J. M. (1929): The trees of Northern Bengal including shrubs, woody climbers, bamboos, palms and tree ferns being a revision of the list by Gamble.

PRAIN, D. (1903): Bengal plants. Calcutta.

22. CULTIVATION OF *VERNONIA SHEVAROYENSIS* GAMBLE
(ASTERACEAE) — AN ENDEMIC AND ENDANGERED PLANT
IN THE SOUTHERN EXPERIMENTAL GARDEN, BOTANICAL
SURVEY OF INDIA

This note relates to a tree namely *Vernonia shevaroyensis* Gamble which is endemic to Shevaroy hills of Tamilnadu and is endangered. Collections of the species from its type locality were made by different collectors and deposited in the different herbaria of the Botanical Survey of India viz. Madras Herbarium (MH) and BSA. The details of collections are furnished in Table 1. Narayana (1979) has also collected the plant material from its type locality for his studies on trichomes of 15 species. *V. shevaroyensis* Gamble is a tall tree of c. 15 m in height, and grows near a perennial stream flowing through a private Coffee estate of Marapalam area (i.e. Kakasholey stream), on the way to Nagalur of Shevaroy hills at an altitude of approx. 1350 m. The species is considered a threatened species (Henry *et al.* 1978) as it has never been collected away from its type locality, and even there only a single well grown plant occurs.

The restricted distribution of the plant in its type locality may be due to ecological preference and self-sterility of its seeds, which is common in Asteraceae (Walters 1979).

To save the plant from extinction it was decided by the Southern Circle of Botanical Survey of India to increase the plant population either by seed or vegetative propagation in the Experimental Garden at Yercaud, Shevaroy hills, and to conserve the tree in its natural habitat.

Fresh seeds were collected and sown for germination trials on different occasions but failed to germinate.

Thirty-five cuttings of soft and hard wood were brought in the month of August, 1979 and treated with 'Seradix' a commercial formulation of May & Baker for trial. Similarly, a second attempt was made by bringing fifty cuttings in the month of November, 1979. All the cuttings were watered regularly on the